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**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Lawrence A. Shimp et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/005238

FILED: December 05, 2001

TITLE: SPINAL INTERVERTEBRAL IMPLANT, INTERCONNECTIONS
FOR SUCH IMPLANT AND PROCESSES FOR MAKING

Examiner: Willse, David H Art Unit: 3738

Atty Docket No. 525400-208

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2004 having a response due date set to expire on June 24, 2003.

In the Claims

Cancel claims 86 and 87.

Amend the claims per the attached. The claims appear on pages 16 – 49.

The remarks begin on page 2.

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